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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,790	08/05/2003	Lap-Wai Chow	B-4424NP 620844-4	2741
36716	7590	01/10/2005	EXAMINER	
LADAS & PARRY 5670 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SUITE 2100 LOS ANGELES, CA 90036-5679			TRAN, MAI HUONG C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2818	

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

1-1A

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/635,790	Applicant(s) CHOW ET AL.	
	Examiner Mai-Huong Tran	Art Unit 2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/15/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I (claims 1-5) drawn to a semiconductor device is acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 6-11 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

The traversal is on the ground(s) that see the election paper. This is not found persuasive because the fields of search for method and device claims are NOT coextensive and the determinations of patentability of method and device claims are different, that is process limitations and device limitations are given weight differently in determining the patentability of the claimed inventions. Also, the strategies for doing text searching of the device claims and method claims are different. Thus, separate searches are required.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made **FINAL**.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,326,675 to Scott et al. (Hereinafter Scott).

Regarding to claim 1, Scott discloses a semiconductor connection comprising:
at least two active areas 10, 12; an electrically conductive doped channel providing an electrical connection 10a, 12a between at least two active areas 10, 12; and a first conductive layer 26 disposed over a first portion of electrically conductive channel; and a second conductive layer 28 disposed over a second portion of electrically conductive channel wherein first and second conductive layers 26, 28 are spaced apart from one another (col. 3, lines 58-67, col. 4, lines 1-26, and figs. 1-4).

Regarding to claim 2, Scott discloses the semiconductor connection wherein first and second conductive layers are silicide layers 20 (col. 4, lines 22-26).

Regarding to claim 3, Scott discloses the semiconductor connection wherein electrically conductive doped channel comprises a first doped channel area adjacent to a first one of at least two active areas; a second doped channel area adjacent to a second one of at least two active areas; and a channel block structure disposed in between first doped channel area and second doped channel area (col. 3, lines 47-67, col. 4, lines 1-52).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,326,675 to Scott et al. in view of the remark.

Regarding to claim 4, Scott discloses the claimed invention except for the semiconductor connection wherein first doped channel area, second doped channel area, and channel block structure have a same conductivity type. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the semiconductor connection wherein first doped channel area, second doped channel area, and channel block structure have a same conductivity type since Scott mentioned that those skilled in the art will recognize that many changes may be made thereto (col. 5, lines 16-20).

Regarding to claim 5, Scott discloses the claimed invention except for the semiconductor connection wherein at least two active areas have a first doping concentration and channel block structure has a second doping concentration, second doping concentration being less than first doping concentration. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the semiconductor connection wherein at least two active areas have a first doping concentration and channel block structure has a second doping concentration, second doping concentration being less than first doping concentration, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or working ranges involves only

routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.being less than first doping concentration.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mai-Huong Tran whose telephone number is (571)272-1796. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on (571)272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mai-Huong Tran
Examiner
Art Unit 2818